

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2012

INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MX

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE OF SEN. FIGUEROA

REFS: A. MEXICO 4508

B. MEXICO 4572

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN KIDNAPPING OF PRI GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE SEN. RUBEN FIGUEROA IN LAST THREE DAYS HAS BEEN PRESIDENTIAL ORDER THAT ARMY UNITS IN GUERRERO BE CONFINED TO BARRACKS BUT NOT WITHDRAWN FROM AREA SPECIFIED IN CABANAS COMMUNIQUE. MEANWHILE, GOM PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IS STRESSING HOW MUCH GOVT AGENCIES HAVE DONE FOR THE STATE, IN WHAT IS PRESUMABLY AN EFFORT TO SHOW THAT ACTIVITIES AND GRIEVANCES OF CABANAS GUERRILLA GROUP HAVE NO FOUNDATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE GEN. HERMENEGILDO CUENCA DIAZ, IN JUNE 6 PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRES. ECHEVERRIA, ANNOUNCED THAT BY PRESIDENTIAL ORDER ALL TROOPS IN STATE OF GUERRERO HAD SUSPENDED OPERATIONS AND BEEN CONFINED TO BARRACKS. ONE OF UNITS AFFECTED, HOWEVER, IS 27TH INFANTRY BATTALION, WHICH HAS ITS HQ  
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IN ATOYAC DE ALVAREZ; THIS IS ONE OF FOUR MUNICIPALITIES

FROM WHICH WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS WAS DEMANDED IN CABANAS JUNE 2 COMMUNIQUE (REF A, PARA 4), SO IT APPEARS THAT GOM HAS NOT MET WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE PRECONDITION FOR ANY NEGOTIATIONS OF FIGUEROA'S RELEASE.

3. CUENCA DIAZ BOTH IN PRELIMINARY REMARKS TO REPORTERS AND IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS STRESSED SOCIAL ACTION MISSION OF ARMY UNITS ASSIGNED TO GUERRERO; APPEARED TO DENY THAT ARMY HAD EVER HUNTED CABANAS; AND SPECIFICALLY DENIED THAT ANY GUERRILLAS EXIST OR OPERATE IN THE STATE.

4. HIS THEME OF WHAT THE ARMY HAS DONE FOR GUERRERO CONSTITUTED ONLY SMALL PART OF UNPRECEDENTED GOM CAMPAIGN, WHICH OVERFLOWS FRONT PAGES OF MOST MEXICO CITY DAILIES JUNE 7. A WIDE VARIETY OF GOM ENTITIES -- INCLUDING SECRETARIATS OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC WORKS, AND NATIONAL PATRIMONY; THE BANCO EJIDAL; AND FIGUEROA'S OWN RIO BALSAS COMMISSION -- HELD PRESS CONFERENCES OR ISSUED RELEASES YESTERDAY STRESSING VAST AMOUNT OF ATTENTION AND MONEY EACH HAS DEVOTED TO IMPROVERISHED GUERRERO SINCE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE.

5. ELSEWHERE, THERE IS A WELTER OF RUMOR AND SPECULATION ABOUT THE CASE, BUT FEW CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS. MAYOR OF IGUALA IN NORTHERN PART OF STATE TOLD PRESS HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM CABANAS DIRECTING HIM TO A RENDEZVOUS, BUT NO ONE MET HIM. THIS MAYOR AND SEVERAL OTHERS HAD ANNOUNCED A CARAVAN TO MEXICO CITY TO PLEAD WITH ECHEVERRIA FOR GOM MEASURES TO SAVE FIGUEROA'S LIFE BUT DESISTED WHEN THEY LEARNED OF ORDER CONFINING TROOPS TO BARRACKS. THERE IS ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF MESSAGE DELIVERED TO FIGUEROA'S ACAPULCO RESIDENCE.

6. MEANWHILE, LEADERS OF CONFEDERACION NACIONAL CAMPESINA IN GUERRERO HAVE TALKED ABOUT RAISING 100,000 PESOS OR MORE TOWARD POSSIBLE RANSOM DEMAND (AS MEXICAN WORKERS' CONFEDERATION DID IN ANOTHER RECENT CASE -- SEE MEXICO 4600); STUDENTS AND OTHER HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN ACAPULCO AGAINST THE KIDNAPPING, WITH DENUNCIATIONS OF CABANAS; AND ALL SORTS OF PUBLIC FIGURES HAVE PRONOUNCED ON THE CASE. A FORMER PRIVATE SECRETARY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FIGUEROA HAS SAID THE SENATOR IS NOT KIDNAP VICTIM BUT IS MERELY ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE WITH CABANAS; HOWEVER, PRESS ACCOUNTS GIVE NO BASIS FOR HIS STATEMENT, AND THIS REMAINS DISTINCTLY A MINORITY VIEW.

7. FINALLY, PRI POPULAR SECTOR HAS INDICATED IT WILL PROCEED WITH ITS STATE ASSEMBLY IN TAXCO JUNE 9 AND LABOR SECTOR APPEARS LIKELY TO FOLLOW JUNE 16. PRI NATIONAL

HEADQUARTERS HAS FUDGED, HOWEVER, AS TO WHETHER STATE CONVENTION JUNE 23 CAN BE HELD IF FIGUEROA HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED BY THAT DATE. THERE IS NO REAL TIME PRESSURE IN ANY CASE, SINCE PARTY CANDIDATES FOR GUERRERO ELECTION, WHENEVER NOMINATED, CAN BE REGISTERED WITH ELECTORAL OFFICIALS ONLY IN SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER.

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8. COMMENT: DAO HAS STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE THAT, WHILE ORDER WITHDRAWING TROOPS TO BARRACKS MAY HAVE BEEN ISSUED, MEXICAN ARMY UNITS IN PATROLS OF UP TO 50 MEN ARE CONTINUING TO OPERATE IN CABANAS'S KNOWN AREA OF OPERATION.  
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